



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

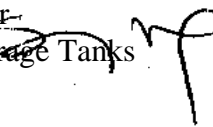
Mail Code 5401G

JUN 19 2000

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE

**MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Completion of the Risk-Based Decision Making Performance Assessment Study

FROM: Sammy Ng, Acting Director  
Office of Underground Storage Tanks 

TO: Addressees

I am pleased to announce the completion of the Risk-Based Decision Making (RBDM) Performance Assessment Study and the release of *Bulletin #2, Study Results and Recommendations for RBDM Program Performance Monitoring*. The study was funded by the EPA Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) under an assistance agreement with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The study takes an important step towards documenting the performance of RBDM in state underground storage tank (UST) corrective action programs. As you are aware, the use of RBDM principles in existing corrective action programs has been a priority for OUST and is supported by Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Directive 9610.17, *Use of Risk-Based Decision Making in UST Corrective Action Programs*.

In the current climate of increasing government program accountability, I find the results of this study to be timely and informative. Both federal and state governments have come under increasing pressure to document environmental program performance and to identify opportunities for more effective alignment of resources with environmental results. I encourage you to take the time to review the enclosed *Bulletin* and see if the recommendations and insights gained by this study could aid you in the management or assessment of your RBDM UST corrective action program.

I would personally like to thank the initial five pilot states--Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina, Utah, and Texas--and EPA Regional staff who took the time to participate in this research. I would additionally like to thank the states of Michigan and Alabama for their contributions to the study after it was underway. It is through the efforts of these states and their willingness to openly share program information that other state programs may benefit.

Several other RBDM products and resources are being developed to aid state programs in

the development, assessment, and management of RBDM programs. We are in the process of updating the RBCA (risk-based corrective action) policy database, which highlights important policy decisions that state programs made with respect to RBDM program implementation. As this updating proceeds, state RBDM managers may be asked to provide details on their programs so that the database reflects accurate and current information. You can view the existing database at [www.gsi-net.com/RBCAPOL](http://www.gsi-net.com/RBCAPOL).

The OSWER Benefit-Cost Pilot Project is also nearing completion. OUST was fortunate to be selected as one of the participants in this OSWER initiative. The project evaluated UST cleanup program attributes and created a range of methodologies, from the simple to complex, that could be used to quantify the benefits and costs of these attributes. State corrective action programs may find the results useful. Once the project is final, we will mail you a copy of the results as well as make it available on the OUST website.

If you have questions about the RBDM Performance Assessment Study, the OSWER Benefit-Cost Pilot Project, or other RBDM products, please contact Richard Mattick of my staff at (703)603-7154 or [mattick.richard@epa.gov](mailto:mattick.richard@epa.gov).

Enclosures

Addressees

State List Managers  
State Fund Administrators  
Regional RBDM Coordinators

cc: David Bennett, OERR  
David Cooper, OERR  
Peter Grevatt, OSWER  
National PIRI Members  
OUST Desk Officers  
Dale Medearis, OIA  
Regional Program Managers  
Jean Schumann, OSWER  
Guy Tomassoni, OSW